

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



May 13, 2002

Regulation Package 0601-13

CDSS MANUAL LETTER NO. SP-02-01

TO: HOLDERS OF THE SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS MANUAL, DIVISION 69

Regulation Package #0601-13**Effective 2/1/02****Sections 69-201, 69-202, 69-203, 69-204, 69-205, 69-206, 69-207, 69-208, 69-209, 69-210, 69-211, 69-212, 69-213, 69-214, 69-215, 69-216, 69-217, 69-221, 69-301, 69-302, 69-303, 69-304, 69-305, and 69-306**

This manual letter has been posted on the Office of Regulations Development website at http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/ord/Specialize_621.htm.

New federal regulations now provide states with the option of operating a publicly administered Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA)/Entrant Cash Assistance (ECA) program consistent with the provisions of each state's Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) Program with regard to determination of eligibility, treatment of income and resources, benefit levels and budgeting methods. These provisions allow California counties to operate their RCA programs in accordance with the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program instead of the obsolete Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program.

In addition, these emergency regulations change the eligibility starting date for asylees to the date they are granted asylum rather than the date they entered the U.S. making it possible for persons granted asylum to more readily access refugee resettlement assistance and benefits. These regulations also ensure that CWDs cannot deny RCA and services to asylees and Cuban and Haitian entrants when a social security number has been applied for but is not available. Also, these emergency regulations clarify that the CWD may no longer consider any cash grant provided to the applicant by a voluntary resettlement agency reception and placement program in determining income eligibility for RCA.

Finally, since regulations relating to refugee services programs are not amended regularly, obsolete program references and current terminology are amended. These amendments include updating the term "Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)" to "California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs)" as a result of AB 1542, Chapter 270, Statutes of 1997 and updating the Department's acronym from "DSS" to "CDSS." In addition, nonsubstantive renumbering and reformatting for clarity are included and make the regulations more user friendly.

These regulations were adopted on an emergency basis effective February 1, 2002 and were considered at the Department's public hearings held on March 13 and 14, 2002.

FILING INSTRUCTIONS

Revisions to all manuals are shown in graphic screen. The attached pages are to be entered in your copy of the Manual of Policies and Procedures. The latest prior manual letter containing Specialized Program changes was SP-96-01.

Page(s)

Replace(s)

15 through 51

Pages 15 through 51

Attachment

JTP